

lines 28 and 30, change "profil" to --profile--.

Page 6, immediately above line 1, insert (centered):

--DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENTS--

line 3, change "vapour" to --vapor--;

line 4, change "vapour" (both occurrences) to --vapor--;

line 5, before "stacked" insert --and--;

line 12, change "neighbours" to --neighbors--;

line 17, change "neighbouring" to --neighboring--.

Page 7, lines 1 and 3, change "peak to peak" to --peak-to-peak--;

line 5, change "face to face" to --face-to-face--;

line 7, before "fluid" insert --and--;

lines 12, 15 and 20, change "vapour" to --vapor--;

line 26, change "ie" to --i.e.--.

IN THE CLAIMS:

Page 8, first line, change "CLAIMS" to --WHAT IS CLAIMED IS--.

Please cancel claims 1-14 without prejudice and add the following new claims:

15. (new) A fluid-fluid contacting apparatus having a structured packing comprising:

a plurality of packing elements arranged in succession in a designed direction of fluid flow, each packing element including a plurality of crimped sheets of material arranged in face-to-face relationship with corrugations extending obliquely relative to the direction of fluid flow, successive packing elements being arranged with the crimped sheets in one packing element angularly displaced with respect to the crimped sheets of adjacent packing elements; and

means for reducing pressure drop imposed on a continuous phase at each interface between successive packing elements, the means being arranged at or in vicinity of the interface,

wherein the means is constituted by a localized change in configuration of the corrugations immediately adjacent the interface, wherein at least some of the crimped sheets of each packing element have at least some corrugations with a crimp angle extended to the interface, the crimp angle varying progressively in vicinity of at least one of the interfaces, wherein the crimp angle within the body of the packing element in an intermediate portion is substantially a constant and the progressively varying crimp angle is greater than the constant.

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16. (new) The apparatus as claimed in claim 15 wherein the corrugations each have terminal portion or portions which intersect the interfaces at an angle of up to 90°.

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17. (new) The apparatus as claimed in claim 16 wherein the corrugations change direction progressively between the interfaces of the packing elements so that intermediate portions of the corrugations between the terminal portions are inclined relative to the direction of fluid flow.

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18. (new) The apparatus as claimed in claim 15 wherein at least some of the corrugations in at least some of the crimped sheets of each packing element are formed with a reduced cross-section in vicinity of at least one of the interfaces, thereby reducing the surface area and pressure drop at a location of the reduced cross-section.

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19. (new) The apparatus as claimed in claim 18 wherein at least some of the corrugations have a localized reduction in depth in vicinity of at least one of the interfaces.

16  
20. (new) The apparatus as claimed in claim 15 wherein the means comprises fluid flow control means at or in vicinity of the interface between successive packing elements for reducing pressure drop at the interface.

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21. (new) The apparatus as claimed in claim 20 wherein the successive packing elements are spaced apart from one another by a gap in the direction of bulk fluid flow through the apparatus, and the fluid flow control means is located in the gap.

IN THE ABSTRACT:

Attached on a separate page is a new Abstract of the Disclosure. It is requested that it be substituted for the originally filed Abstract.